



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

November 1, 2004

Dear Organic Certifying Agent:

Michigan's Organic Product's Act 316 of 2000 went into effect on October 1, 2001. This law will impact you as an organic certifying agent if you conduct inspections of organic handlers and producers within the State of Michigan.

All certifying agents are required to be registered and pay an annual fee for registration with Michigan Department of Agriculture. The fee is currently \$200.00 and is due December 1st of each year. In addition, you are required to meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Use certification standards that meet or exceed National Organic Program;
- ✓ Require all certified handlers/producers to have an organic plan;
- ✓ Establish procedures that allow handlers/producers to appeal an adverse certification determination;
- ✓ Require all persons certified to demonstrate on an annual basis that they are in compliance with all products produced, handled, sold, offered for sale, advertised, or labeled as organic as required by the National Organic Program;
- ✓ Conduct an annual on site inspection of all persons certified;
- ✓ When determined to be necessary by the MDA director, conduct residue testing of organic products which have been produced on certified organic farms and handled through certified handling operations to determine if prohibited substances have been used;
- ✓ Have written procedures approved by the National Organic Program up to date to conduct organic certifying duties;
- ✓ Insure that no conflicts of interest exist;
- ✓ Employ only inspectors who are impartial and who have received verifiable training in organic certification procedures as determined necessary and approved by the MDA director;

OVER

- ✓ Annually or when requested by MDA, provide a list of names and addresses of all the handlers/producers certified by your agency in Michigan. Do not include those handlers/producers that are in transition to organic. Include a list of the agricultural products produced by each Michigan handler/producer. Update this list as additions and deletions occur throughout the year;
- ✓ Allow the MDA director access to all records pertaining to organic certification;
- ✓ Comply with all requirements imposed by the Michigan Organic Production Act 316;

Registration expires December 1 of each year and may be renewed by submission of completed renewal application and appropriate annual fees.

Enclosed is a copy of the Michigan Organic Products Act 316 of 2000, an application for registration of certifying agents, an application for registration of handlers/producers (for your clients), and my business card. If you have any questions, please contact me at (517) 373-0280 or collierc@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Collier
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

CMC:tdj

enclosures